

Frances Walton Pope to Andrew Jackson, January 8, 1829, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

MRS. F. POPE TO JACKSON.

Frankfort, Ky. , [May 30,?], 1829.

To General Andrew Jackson President of the United States. You will no doubt be surprised, to be again addressed by me in an epistolary way; but such is my confidence in your good feelings and highmindedness, that I cannot for a moment believe, my letter addressed to you last winter ever reached you: or the President of the United States would even condescend to have taken notice of a letter addressed to him, in so good a cause as I then embarked in, and still conceive it is not presumable that the President can be acquainted with the private character of every subaltern that fills the different offices under government: but at the same time let me assure you, you can have no idea of the integrity, honesty and good principles of the man you have prostrated, and literally taken the bread out of the mouths of a helpless wife and two small children. Such unfortunately has been the lot of Mrs: Hawkins! Yet for [no?] cause, not even now, can she be tempted to turn against you, or utter a word of disapprobation against your course, whilst her eyes are swimming in tears, she adds "I cannot turn against Genl. Jackson!"

I who was the cause of my husband's¹ many and powerful exertions in your favour (which he has long since acknowledged) could not be made to believe, you would not have granted me one small request. When in fact and reality it would have been a step greatly in your favour to have retained Mr. Hawkins in his petty office, which his highmindedness would have long since made him resign, had it not been that it was a support for his helpless family.

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1 Probably John Pope, whom Jackson appointed governor of Arkansas.

If charges have been alleged against Mr. H. and sent on to your Cabinet, rest assured they have originated in the imaginations of designing sycophants: for never has a similar circumstance come under my knowledge, that has excited more universal sympathy than this one, even among your own ranks: and I may also venture to say it has and will turn many Jacksonians.

I still must believe that my letter of last Winter was not recd. by you, or your general politeness, for which you have ever been characterized, would, notwithstanding your power and preferment, induce you to retain the common courtesies of life, to a Lady, who was induced by the best feelings of philanthropy to address you last Winter: and should I not receive an answer to this, through some medium I must still suppose my epistles are intercepted, or kept from your eyes, again I repeat it, if I do not receive an answer to this, I must resort to some other conveyance than that of mail. I must intrust some friend to present my next to you personally. I expect to remain in Frankfort until the first of July.

I have the honour to subscribe myself with all due Respect and Regard.